

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 2, 2012**

ATTENDANCE: Michelle Lyons, Co-Chair; Council President Thomas McCarthy; Angel dePara; Denese Taylor-Moye; John Olson

STAFF: P. Carleton; Lt. Cudo; T. Grabarz; A. Kabel; A. McGoldrick; R. Petrucelli

OTHERS: C. deAngelis, PE; Rev. Castillo

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair M. Lyons called the meeting to order at 6:12 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

****COUNCIL MEMBER OLSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL MEETINGS OF JULY 11, 2012 AND JULY 31, 2012.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA SECONDED**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

AGENDA ITEMS

Item 121-11 Grant Submission: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program.

Patrick Carleton, Central Grants presented this item. This grant will allow the city to hire eighteen (18) entry level full-time firefighters and cover their salary and benefits for a period of 2 years. Grant amount is \$ 2,789,874, and does not require a match from the City.

Co-chair Lyons asked if these firefighters will be performing all duties and he responded yes. Council Member Olson asked the chances of receiving this grant and Mr. Carleton responded that it has already been awarded. The City must approve the application in order to receive the award.

****COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA MADE A MOTION TO APROVE ITEM #121-11 FEMA STAFFING ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) PROGRAM GRANT**

****COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Item 135-11 Grant Submission: U.S. Department of Justice FY 2012 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program

Alexandra McGoldrick came forward to speak on behalf of this item. She said this was the 3rd application submitted under this program. Awards in 2010 and 2011 will provide equipment required for a new firing range and training facility for the Police Department. These 2012 funds are for additional equipment for the new shooting range.

The amount is \$194,298 with no match requirement, and 4 years to spend the money. Council President McCarthy asked if a location has been identified. Ms. McGoldrick said a location has not been identified yet.

Council Member Taylor-Moye asked if the previous grant money has been spent. Ms. McGoldrick indicated it has not been spent pending a location. Lt. Cudo came forward to speak. He said they are working with OPED to locate an indoor facility that will serve all their needs. The previous grants and this money will be used to equip the facility.

Co-Chair Lyons asked that they notify the Committee when they do locate a facility and can move forward with this project. Council Member Taylor-Moye asked again how long they will have to spend the money. Ms. McGoldrick indicated each award has a 4 year limit on it.

****COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MADE A MOTION TO APROVE ITEM #135-11 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FY 2012 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM**

****COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA SECONDED**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Item 138-11 Application for Waiver to Extend Driveway Width for St. Vincent's College located at 2660 Main Street.

Mr. Chris DeAngelis, PE of Cabezas DeAngelis, LLC and Engineer of Record on this project came forward to speak on behalf of this item. He indicated that St. Vincent's

owns this building and is converting the 3rd floor to be used by St. Vincent's College, and using the 1st and 2nd floors for medical tenants.

They plan to reconstruct both the upper and lower parking lots and are proposing to adjust the curb cuts to 24' wide. They will be re-paving, re-striping, minor re-grading to accommodate handicap accessible areas to the parking lots and redoing the sidewalks on Salem Street.

Council President McCarthy asked if they were adding any parking spaces. Mr. DeAngelis said they actually will be losing a small amount to comply with current zoning requirements. He asked if anyone contacted Council Member dePara since this is in his district.

Council President McCarthy commented that the intersection of Salem St. and Main St. is a very dangerous spot with many accidents occurring there. Council Member Taylor-Moye asked when this project will start and how long it will take, and how it will affect the residents and their parking situation.

Mr. DeAngelis said it would not affect the residential side of Salem Street. They will start as soon as approvals are received. The sidewalk renovation will be done over the span of 2 weeks.

Council Member DePara stated this is his district and while he understands the need to improve the parking lot access, etc., he has some serious concerns because of increasing complaints from these neighbors concerning on-street parking availability. This reduction in spaces in the lots will only add to an already difficult situation for these residents.

Mr. DeAngelis said this parking demand was discussed during the Zoning process. He said the students attending St. Vincent's College will not be using the parking lots. They are required to use the parking garage at the Medical Center.

Council Member dePara said he would have expected a call from Mr. LoStacco of St. Vincent's on this project and was disappointed not to hear from them. Mr. DeAngelis said he would pass that comment along to them.

Council President McCarthy said that generally when someone is going to do a project of this size, especially in a residential area, they expect parties to reach out to the appropriate Council Members to discuss.

Mr. dePara said he would like to table this item.

****COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA MADE A MOTION TO TABLE ITEM #138-11 APPLICATION FOR WAIVER TO EXTEND DRIVEWAY WIDTH FOR ST. VINCENTS COLLEGE LOCATED AT 2660 MAIN STREET.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED**

****THE MOTION PASSED WITH 3 VOTES FOR AND 1 AGAINST**

Item 136-11 Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Transportation FY 2013 Local Bridge Program for the Capitol Avenue Bridge over the Rooster River Overflow.

Ms. A. McGoldrick came forward to present. She said this is a grant to repair the existing bridge on Capitol Avenue. As part of the Local Bridge Project the State of CT contributes approximately 32% of the cost of repair. The States portion is \$376,025 and the City is responsible for \$768,974.

Mr. Ted Grabarz came forward to speak as well. The City's portion is in the capital plan. With approval tonight the design work can begin. Council Member Olson asked why this process takes so long. Mr. Grabarz said the process is the State assesses all bridges, go through their budgeting process to allocate/not allocate. State DOT approval is a very lengthy process.

Council President McCarthy asked if there will be road closures. Mr. Grabarz said work will be done one lane at a time to maintain traffic flow.

****COUNCIL MEMBER OLSON MADE A MOTION TO APROVE ITEM #136-11 GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FY 2013 LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM FOR THE CAPITOL AVENUE BRIDGE OVER THE ROOSTER RIVER OVERFLOW.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Item 137-11 Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Transportation FY 2013 Local Bridge program for the Arctic Street Bridge over Pembroke Lakes.

Ms. McGoldrick said this is the 2nd bridge to be addressed by this program. This is to remove the existing structure and replace it with a new bridge. The State portion is \$625,613 and the City's portion is \$1,279,386.

****COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MADE A MOTION TO APROVE ITEM #137-11 GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FY 2013 LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM FOR THE ARCTIC STREET BRIDGE OVER PEMBROKE LAKES**

****COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Item 116-11 (Ref. #52-11) Proposed Resolution to donate one (1) remaining surplus fire engine to the Dominican Republic.

Chief Robert Petrucelli came forward to present this item. He said that in February of this year the City Council passed a resolution to donate 3 surplus fire trucks to the Island of Hispaniola. Two were given to the Dominican Republic and one to Haiti. At the time the City had one more truck they were using as a spare awaiting the arrival of new trucks.

That spare is considered unsafe for use and is no longer needed and the Rev. Castillo approached the Fire Department to ask for this truck to go to the Dominican Republic. He said that they are very grateful for the two received already. They are happy to receive this one as well, fix it up and use it for the safety of their residents.

Rev. Castillo said on behalf of the residents of the Dominican Republic he would like to extend gratitude to the City of Bridgeport for these donations. He said these people have nothing – no ambulances, fire trucks, and are very grateful for the kindness of the City of Bridgeport. These trucks go right to the communities for their use.

Council member Taylor-Moye asked when they will ship and how that happens. Rev. Castillo said there is a company that donates the money needed to transport the truck to the islands. They come to Bridgeport to pick it up and make all the arrangements to ship it.

Council Member dePara asked if the truck is unsafe to use here should it go to the island? Rev. Castillo said once the truck arrives the local people repair the truck, even make the parts needed to make it safe and useful.

Chief Petrucelli said that although it is unsafe to use here in Bridgeport, it is still operational, the pumps work, just not up to standards here. He said representatives from the Dominican have been here to inspect the truck.

Co-chair Lyons stated that regulations here are different than in the Dominican Republic. She also said that people in these countries are very ingenious and can make anything work. She also said some may ask if this truck could be sold/auctioned to benefit the city. Chief Petrucelli said no.

Rev. Castillo extended an invitation to all to visit the Dominican Republic to see where the trucks go.

Co-chair Lyons asked Chief Petrucelli and Rev. Castillo to attend the next City Council meeting to answer any questions that any other council members may have on this proposal. She also asked if someone from the Fire Dept. maintenance department could attend as well.

Council Member Taylor-Moye wanted to make sure the City could not be held liable once it leaves the City. Chief Petrucelli said the City Attorney's Office draws up a Hold Harmless document for both parties to sign, that the Dominican Republic is accepting the truck as is.

Council member dePara clarified his position that he did not want to send a truck that is unsafe to the people of the Dominican Republic. Council Member Taylor-Moye asked to be advised once the truck is leaving and on its way to the island.

****COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN**
****COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED**
****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Kuzmich
Telesco Secretarial Services